

REMARKS**I. General**

Claims 1-23 and 35-57 are pending. Claims 1-17, 41-54, and 57 are finally rejected, claims 18-23 and 55 are objected to, and claims 35-40 and 56 are allowed. The issues asserted in the Office Action mailed June 1, 2004 are:

- Claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements;
- Claims 1-3, 5, 41, 43-45, and 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,677 to Fox et al. (hereinafter *Fox*);
- Claims 4, 6-17, 42, 46, 47, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fox*;
- Claims 52-54 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fox* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,745,705 to Iguchi (hereinafter *Iguchi*);
- Claims 18-23 and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and
- Claims 35-40 and 56 are allowed.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 35-40 and 56 are allowable and stated that claims 18-23 and 55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claims 18-23, 35-40, 55, and 56 is allowable subject matter.

III. Claim Amendments

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 18, thereby presenting claim 18, as previously submitted, in independent form. Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, and 19 have been amended to reflect the amendment to claim 1. Claim 21 has been amended to correct a claim informality whereby the term "communications" was previously misspelled. Claims 2-4, 8,

9, 18, 41-51, 53, and 57 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants assert that each of the currently pending claims include subject matter indicated as patentable by the Examiner.

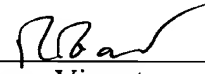
IV. Summary

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 56728/P001US/10001505 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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